

0-09-89

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM ON THE  
ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR ELECTRONIC CHANGEABLE  
COPY SIGNS IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK;  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City of North Little Rock, through Ordinance Nos. 7674 ("The Sign Ordinance") and 7697 ("The Zoning Ordinance"), regulates signs, including electronic changeable copy signs; and

WHEREAS, a moratorium was declared on issuance of permits for electronic changeable copy signs through September 30, 2009 (Resolution No. 7453) in order to study relevant issues concerning this type of signs; and

WHEREAS, the moratorium established by Resolution No. 7453 was clarified on September 28, 2009 through the adoption of Ordinance No. 8194 which extended the moratorium until December 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the informal committee that was initially formed by Resolution No. 7453, and clarified and extended by Ordinance No. 8194, has met on several occasions the informal committee that was initially formed by Resolution No. 7453, and clarified and extended by Ordinance No. 8194, has met on several occasions to examine the law and facts regarding electronic changeable copy signs in order to find a proper point of regulatory balance among individual rights, commercial development, and public interests such as: aesthetic appearance, traffic safety, fair competition, light pollution, and sanctity of the home; and

WHEREAS, despite diligent work, the informal committee has not completed its study.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: That the moratorium on issuance of permits by the North Little Rock Department of Community Planning ("Planning Department") for electronic changeable copy signs established by Resolution No. 7453 and extended by Ordinance No. 8194 is hereby extended until January 31, 2010. The deadline for the Committee's report to City Council is hereby extended until January 11, 2010.

SECTION 2: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 3: That the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and if any section, phrase or provision shall be declared or held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remainder of the sections, phrases or provisions.

SECTION 4: It is hereby found and determined that there is an immediate need to extend the moratorium on electronic changeable copy signs in North Little Rock to afford appropriate time to study the various issues of their safety and viability; THEREFORE, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED:

APPROVED:

SPONSORS:

ATTEST:

Murry Witcher  
Alderman Murry Witcher

Mayor Patrick H. Hays

Debi Ross  
Alderman Debi Ross

Diane Whitbey, City Clerk

Beth White  
Alderman Beth White

Maurice Taylor  
Alderman Maurice Taylor

Linda Robinson  
Alderman Linda Robinson

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

C. Jason Carter  
C. Jason Carter, City Attorney

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

FILED 11:58 A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ P.M.

BY City Atty Carter

DATE 12-8-09  
Diane Whitbey, City Clerk and Collector

North Little Rock, Arkansas

RECEIVED by A. Hodge